

# Immunize Our Children

“Let us put our minds together to see what life we can make for our children.”  
—Sitting Bull, Lakota Sioux, 1877

## Vaccines—a responsibility to our children



One of the best ways you can protect your children against disease is by having them vaccinated. Vaccination (also called immunization or baby shots) starts at birth. An early start is very important because your baby's immune system is not strong enough to fight diseases. Vaccines boost the immune system without causing disease. Vaccines protect children against some diseases and help keep babies healthy. Protect your children by getting them all the recommended vaccines before they are two years of age.

Please, don't delay.

## Protect The Circle of Life

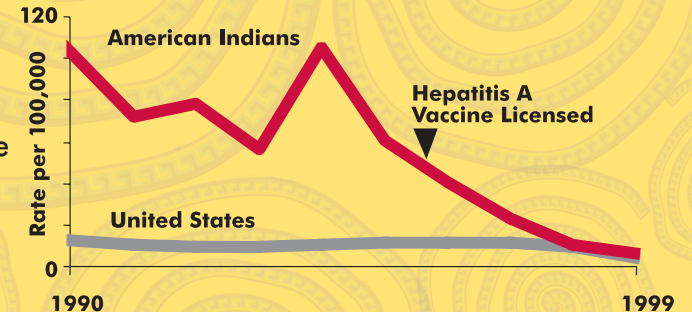
## Vaccines—a success story

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children have a greater risk of getting some diseases than other U.S. children. Fortunately, strong vaccination efforts have greatly lowered the number of illnesses and deaths among children and adults. The success of the hepatitis A vaccine illustrates this point.

Before the hepatitis A vaccine was available, AI/AN children and adults were far more likely to get hepatitis A (a disease of the liver) than the rest of the U.S. population.

This disease still strikes AI/AN communities across the U.S., but the hepatitis A vaccine saves many people from becoming sick or dying.

### AI/AN Hepatitis A Vaccine Success



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Beth Bell, MD

**Ask your health care provider which vaccines your child needs. Keep the circle strong.**

**CDC National Immunization Information Hot Line**

**ENGLISH: 800-232-2522**

**ESPAÑOL: 800-232-0233**

**DEAF & HARD OF HEARING: 800-243-7889**



**Vaccines can prevent these diseases:**

- ▶ Bacterial Meningitis
- ▶ Diphtheria
- ▶ Hepatitis A
- ▶ Hepatitis B
- ▶ Influenza
- ▶ Measles
- ▶ Mumps
- ▶ Pertussis [Whooping Cough]
- ▶ Pneumococcal Disease
- ▶ Polio
- ▶ Rubella [German Measles]
- ▶ Tetanus [Lockjaw]
- ▶ Varicella [Chickenpox]

**But I've never even seen some of these diseases!**

**T**oday, we see fewer people getting sick from these diseases in the U.S. The reason is that responsible health care providers and parents have given millions of children vaccines over the past years.

But don't be fooled. Those diseases are still out there. If we stop giving our children vaccines, the diseases that made people sick and even killed them only a few years ago will return.

# For more information:

CDC Website—[www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip) • Vaccines For Children—[www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc) 404-639-8222

**Vaccines—a responsibility to our communities**



**V**accines protect more than your child. They protect the entire community.

**If enough people in our communities are protected, vaccine-preventable diseases will not be passed to our children, our families, and our communities.**

**Have your child vaccinated and help protect the circle of life.**

**Where can I get my child vaccinated?**

- ▶ Tribal clinics
- ▶ Indian Health Service facilities
- ▶ Local health departments
- ▶ Community, urban or rural health center clinics
- ▶ Vaccines for Children participating provider\*

\*American Indian and Alaska Native children, through 18 years of age, can get vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) at no charge. Ask if your doctor is a "VFC" participating provider. If your doctor is, you can get your child's shots in the doctor's office.

